

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 SCA-01 /061 W

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O 170823Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9497

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2644

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: MISSIONARIES DEMONSTRATION

1. IN COURSE OF AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF APRIL 16 ALL SEVEN U.S. MISSIONARIES WHO HAD DEMONSTRATED AT US EMBASSY WERE PICKED UP AND TAKEN TO SEOUL IMMIGRATION OFFICE, WHERE THEY WERE DETAINED AND QUESTIONED, SOME UNTIL MIDNIGHT, AND THEN RELEASED. AT THEIR REQUEST VICE CONSUL WAS PRESENT AS OBSERVER.

2. MISSIONARIES WERE INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY REGARDING INCIDENT AT THE EMBASSY, THE OBJECTIVE OF THEIR PROTEST AND THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD PRP TRIAL AND EXECUTIONS. APPARENT INTENT OF PROBE WAS TO DETERMINE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZER OF PROTEST AND DEGREE OF COMMITMENT TO THEIR CAUSE. EACH WAS ASKED TO SIGN A TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW, BUT PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES CHARLES KRAUTH AND W.A. BASINGER REFUSED. ONLY BASINGER, A RECENT ARRIVAL IN KOREA, WAS ASKED TO RETURN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING.

3. AT END OF INTERROGATIONS EACH WAS WARNED THAT ROKG CONSIDERED ALL PROTESTS, INCLUDING PROTESTS WITHIN EMBASSIES, VIOLATION OF KOREAN LAW, AND TOLD THAT INCIDENTS "WOULD BE FORGOTTEN IF PERSON ENGAGED
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IN NO FURTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES".

4. WITH EXCEPTION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES,
NO NEWSPAPER COVERED DEMONSTRATION OF MISSIONARIES.
TONGA ILBO APRIL 17 BRIEFLY MENTIONED THAT MISSIONARY
DEMONSTRATION WAS SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION PREVIOUS
DAY BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR.
INTERROGATION OF MISSIONARIES BY IMMIGRATION
AUTHORITIES NOT MENTIONED IN PRESS.
SNEIDER

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